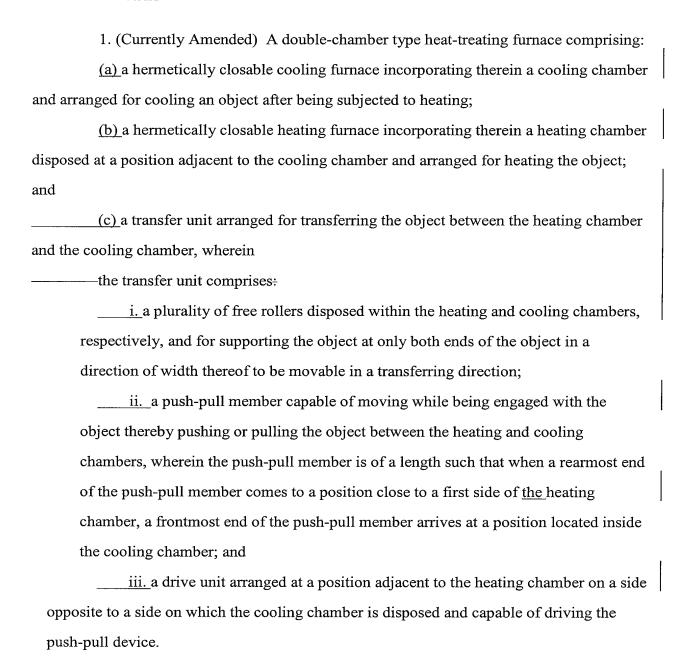
II. <u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>:

Claims 1-7 are currently amended.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application. No new matter has been added to the claims.

Listing of Claims:



- 2. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 1, wherein the push-pull member comprises an engaging member capable of turning up to a higher position thereof where the engaging memberit is engaged with the object to horizontally push and pull the object, and lying down to a lower position thereof where the engaging memberit moves horizontally without being engaged with the object.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 2, wherein the drive unit comprises:
 - (1) a horizontally movable chain connected to a rearmost end of the push-pull member and being capable of horizontally moving;
 - (2) a sprocket engaged with the horizontally movable chain; and
 - (3) a rotational motor that rotationally drives the sprocket.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 1, wherein the cooling furnace comprises:

i. a carrying-in/out door for the cooling chamber, wherein the carrying-in/out doorwhich is arranged on a side opposite to the side on which the heating chamber is provided and is arranged for carrying the object into and out of the cooling chamber; and

<u>ii.</u> a gas-cooling/circulating unit for <u>the cooling chamber</u>, <u>wherein the gas-cooling/circulating unitwhich</u> cools and circulates a gas vertically passing through an inside of the cooling chamber; <u>and</u>

the cooling chamber is provided for surrounding a cooling region in which the object is permitted to be steadily-placed and defining, in an inside of the cooling chamber defines region, and having a gas passageway with a constant cross-section in a vertical direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according
to claim 1, wherein the heating furnace comprises:
i. a vacuum container of which an interior is exhausted to at vacuum;
ii. a heating chamber capable of receiving therein the object;
<u>iii.</u> a front door for introducing and delivering the object into and from the
heating chamber;
iv. a rear door for closing an opening provided for permitting, therethrough,
the object within the heating chamber to be moved;
v. a mounting bed for mounting thereon the object to be horizontally movable
back and forth; and
vi. a heater arranged for heating the object.

- 6. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 5, wherein the heating furnace further comprises a gas-cooling/circulating device for the heating chamber, wherein the gas-cooling/circulating devicewhich cools and circulates a gas passing through an inside of the heating chamber.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 5, wherein the heating furnace <u>further</u> comprises a carrying-in/out door for <u>the</u> heating furnace, <u>wherein the carrying-in/out doorwhich</u> is disposed on a side opposite to the side on which the cooling chamber is disposed and is arranged for performing carrying-in of or carrying-out of the object.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to claim 1, wherein the transfer unit, the heating furnace and the cooling furnace are arranged in order.